



CHAMBER NEWSLETTER

Our Mission: The Cottage Grove Area Chamber of Commerce promotes economic vitality through advocacy and collaboration with its members and the larger community.



Travis Palmer,
Executive Director

Director's Note

There is never a shortage of things that we're working on at the Cottage Grove Chamber of Commerce and October is no exception. The most recognizable of October's activities is the Halloween Howl or as some know it, "Trick or Treat on Main Street." This event happens through collaboration between the Chamber, City, Main Street Program, EBID and the Sentinel. We all pitch in and encourage businesses and organizations to participate by opening their doors, decorating their businesses or setting up a booth on Main Street from 3 to 5pm on Tuesday, October 31st for some old fashioned family-friendly fun. We expect over 1,000 kids in costumes each year and we are always impressed by the level of support and participation from local businesses. If you'd like to participate, call 541-942-2411 for more details.

Through another exercise in collaboration, there will be a new event this month called The Cottage Grove Business Challenge. Thanks to a donation from the New Breed Seed Company, local entrepreneurs are competing to win up to \$10,000 in prize money to start a new business in Cottage Grove. Twenty-four business plans were submitted but only 3 will be chosen by a panel of judges for funding. Anyone interested in starting a new business or investing in a local business is encouraged to attend when we announce the winners on October 25th at the Village Green. The Cottage Grove Chamber is proud to be able to help plan this competition and we are grateful for the contributions of New Breed Seed Company and the amazing support from the Eugene Regional Accelerator & Innovation Network (RAIN) as well as Cottage Grove's Community Development Corporation and Economic & Business Improvement District. For more information about this event, visit the website cottagegrovebusinesschallenge.com.

As we do on the 3rd Thursday of every month, the Chamber of Commerce invites representatives from area businesses to meet and learn about each other at Business After Hours. Not only are these monthly events great way to learn more about the businesses who host them but they also offer an opportunity to make new contacts and educate others about your own businesses. "Word of mouth" advertising is the most cost efficient and most effective way to market your business. We organize these monthly networking events because new business relationships are created each and every month. On October 19th, Business After Hours will be hosted by our local radio station, KNND AM 1400 and will take place in their studio located at 321 Main Street from 5:30 to 7pm. All Cottage Grove and Creswell Chamber of Commerce members are encouraged to attend.

With regards to the inner workings of the Chamber of Commerce, October is also when we start our strategic planning for the next year. We are currently recruiting new board members to replace the ones who will retire at the end of 2017 and we are happy to report that we should start the New Year with a full and diverse board that is well balanced by experience and enthusiasm. Our annual retreat will include a thorough board member orientation as well as strategic planning which will be guided by the Executive Director of the Oregon State Chamber of Commerce, Alison Hart. We strongly encourage all of our business members to give us feedback about what the Chamber can do to strengthen the local economy. We welcome all feedback and will continue to work toward making Cottage Grove a great place to do business. Comments or questions about the Chamber's Mission and Purpose can be sent to info@cgchamber.com or visit www.cgchamber.com.

CHAMBER NEWS

Member Benefit Highlight – Chamber Membership Directory

Thank you for responding to the letters sent requesting that you review the information we have on file for your business. There is still time to make any corrections that you want to occur in the new directory. Please return those letters ASAP to be sure your current information is included. Travis will be contacting you to discuss a variety of ways you can promote your business through the directory. Incentive discounts are being offered.

For those of you who have thought about membership, and wish to be in next year's directory, the deadline for new members to be included in the directory is November 13. So now is the time to move ahead with your plans to join the Chamber. Participate in chamber membership and watch your marketing dollars stretch. To those of you who are already members, we thank you and hope you enjoy this great chamber benefit! Please contact Jessica Baker at the chamber office (541) 942-2411 regarding your intent to join so that we do not miss including your business in the 2018 publication.

October Business After Hours

KNND AM 1400 will host Business After Hours on Thursday, October 19 at the radio station located at 321 E. Main Street from 5:30 – 7:00pm. Please join us for a time to network with other businesses, learn something new, and have some fun! And don't forget your business cards to share and enter the door prize drawing. Your attendance reinforces the spirit in which the Chamber provides these monthly activities. Cottage Grove and Creswell Chamber members are encouraged to attend this classic, fun networking event!

Future Business After Hours

November 16th – Village Green Resort
December 21st – Cottage Grove Sentinel

Reservations are being taken for Business After Hours in 2018. Give us a call at 942-2411 and reserve your month today!

Trick or Treat on Main Street!

The chamber is once again collaborating with the City, Cottage Grove Main Street Program, EBID and the Cottage Grove Sentinel for this year's Trick or Treat on Main Street! This year's event will take place on **Tuesday, October 31st from 3-5pm**. Cottage Grove and Creswell area businesses are encouraged to participate. Main Street will be closed to vehicle traffic starting at 1pm so businesses can participate by setting up a booth right on Main Street during the event. **Contact Travis at 541-942-2411** to ask about setting up a booth. There is NO CHARGE to participate! This event provides a safe, family friendly environment for over 1,000 people to enjoy each year. Don't miss this opportunity to show off your Halloween Spirit and creativity!

Mark Your Calendars Now for Christmas in Cottage Grove!

Plans are under way for this year's Downtown Christmas Tree Lighting which will be held on **Saturday, December 2nd**. Bundle up and join us for some family fun! To kick off the day, have breakfast with Santa at the Fire Station, take advantage of various merchant discounts, participate in a scavenger hunt, have your picture taken with Santa after the tree lighting ceremony, tour Dr. Snapp's House on River Road and find that special gift for someone on your shopping list at their annual bazaar. What a great way to start the Christmas season! Watch for a schedule of all the events in the coming months.

MEMBER NEWS

Elevate Lane County Career Event

On Wednesday, October 18th, Connected Lane County, Elevate Lane County, and the Technology Association of Oregon are organizing THREE Experience Oregon Tech tours in Eugene for high school juniors and seniors. We will meet at VALLEY RIVER CENTER AT 11:30 AM AND RETURN TO THE SAME PARKING LOT AT 230 PM. Lunch will be provided for you and your students.

Is this something you'd like to participate in? If so, PLEASE CONTACT emaloney@lesd.k12.or.us WITH YOUR NAME AND THE NUMBER OF STUDENTS YOU WOULD LIKE TO BRING. Because this event is likely to be very popular, we'd like you to choose 10-15 of your juniors and/or senior students. (If you have more students that would like to attend, we can add them to the wait list and let you know if additional spots become available). EACH GROUP OF STUDENTS NEEDS AN ADULT EDUCATOR TO ATTEND WITH THEM. There is no cost to attend and we can provide bus reimbursement if that's needed.

If you would like someone from the Elevate staff to come to your school and talk with teachers, administrators, and/or students, please connect with Erin at emaloney@lesd.k12.or.us and she will schedule two members from the team to come out.

The chamber's number one goal is to create a strong local economy. All of the programs and benefits supported by your membership investment go toward achieving that goal. Your membership is also a commitment to the entire community and a pledge of support for the economic growth and vitality of the Cottage Grove area. Thank you!

New Members in September – Please join us and welcome our newest chamber members

Lillibolero, Inc.
Jay Toman
Cottage Grove
(541) 942-7279
www.lillibolero.com
IT Management/Consultant

Renewing Members

Cottage Grove Speedway

We encourage you to support Chamber member businesses and our local economy.

"Shop Local and Shop Chamber Members first"!

Community Calendar

2017 Chamber Board of Directors, Advisors and Staff

Cottage Grove Area Chamber of Commerce
700 E. Gibbs • Cottage Grove, OR • P. (541) 942-2411
info@cgchamber.com • www.cgchamber.com



2017 Chamber Board of Directors:

Thank you for your hours upon hours of volunteer time, commitment, and service!

Officers

Candace Solesbee, President	Shampoo Dolls Salon
Chloe Beckes, Vice President	Jack Sprats
Ruth Linoz, Secretary	South Lane Wheels
Gary Manly, Treasurer	Cottage Grove Sentinel
Joe Raade, Past President	South Lane County Fire & Rescue

Directors

Cassie Barrong	Oregon Aviation Historical Society
Ryan Gifford	Gifford & Gifford Attorneys at Law
Dean Kruschke	Cascade Home Center
Bret Munk	CG Body Studio
Layla Beth Munk	CG Body Studio
Shuana Neigh	Buster's Main Street Café
Danny Solesbee	Five Flying Monkeys
Don Williams	Retired, Past Board President
Lloyd Williams	South Lane Television
Judd Van Gorder	Carousel House B&B and Catering

Advisors

Tim Herrmann	PeaceHealth Cottage Grove Community Medical Center
Celeste Krueger	Pacific Power
Richard Meyers/Mike Fleck	City of Cottage Grove
Garrett Bridgens	South Lane School District

Visitor Center Volunteers:

Heidi Abbott, Dotti Bittner, Tara Sue Hughart, Susan Jeppesen, Suzy Kanich, Marie Longfellow, Judd Van Gorder, Sharon Van Gorder, Penny Westling, Nolene Wheeler.

Staff:

Travis Palmer, Executive Director
Beth Martin, Office Manager
Mavis Bradsby, Bookkeeper
Jessica Baker, Membership Development Coordinator

Five Year Vision Statement:

The Cottage Grove Area Chamber of Commerce promotes Cottage Grove as a prosperous destination community. Economic vitality is at the heart of everything we do. As a resource for businesses, we are the conduit that provides advocacy, marketing, education, and networking opportunities to over 300 members.